

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR MILWAUKEE COUNTY/WOW COUNTIES

SEPTEMBER 2001



A note to subscribers of the Milwaukee/WOW Labor Market Review:

Milwaukee/WOW September Employment Data

In September, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) experienced a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 4.0 percent, which is six tenths of a percentage point lower than that experienced in the metro area for the month of August. The metropolitan unemployment rate stands at six tenths of one percent above the state rate of 3.4% for the same period. Historically, the unemployment rate is four tenths higher than the 3.6% rate of September 2000.

The **Milwaukee County** not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate stood at 4.9 percent in September. The monthly change reflects the loss of over 8,110 from the labor force; this loss comprised of 5,670 fewer employed and 2,430 fewer unemployed. July to August brings about a labor force reduction in the employed as summer-spiked industries filled with high school and college students and seasonal laborers leave their interim jobs for other opportunities. This year's exodus seems to be more extreme probably due to the fact that the survey that measures this data came later than usual in the month and captured more of this loss. This is true for all counties reported in this issue.

The industrial scene in Milwaukee County counted 700 fewer net jobs over the month led by a 450 job decrease in manufacturing. Services employment also decreased by 280 jobs. Finance, insurance and real estate (FIRE); wholesale trade; retail trade; and transportation, communication and public utilities (TCPU) increased by a combined 280 jobs. Construction showed a minute loss.

Over the year figures present the dramatic loss of over 4,000 manufacturing jobs centered in machinery and fabricated metals production. Also showing losses are wholesale and retail trade (-1,600 jobs combined), TCPU (-200 jobs) and construction (-320 jobs). Services and FIRE showed robust gains of 3,100 and 480 jobs, respectively. The yearly loss in wholesale trade continues the trend of this year's decline in trade as distributors and "big-ticket" items dealers feel the pinch of lower

commercial and consumer demand and lower production of the items they sell. Hopefully, August's edge upwards will continue into the important holiday shopping season.

The WOW counties' not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates all declined over the month. **Washington County's** rate at 3.2 percent is five-tenths a point lower than July. **Ozaukee County's** August rate turned in a 2.9 percent figure, also five-tenths a point lower, and **Waukesha County**, at 3.2 percent, is two-tenths a point lower than a month ago. These three counties' rates are higher than last August's figures. Washington County is up six-tenths of a percentage point and both Ozaukee and Waukesha County are up seven-tenths of a point. To put these August rates into historical perspective, Washington County's average unemployment rate between 1990 and 2000 for the month of August is three percent; Ozaukee County, 2.8 percent and Waukesha County's is three percent.

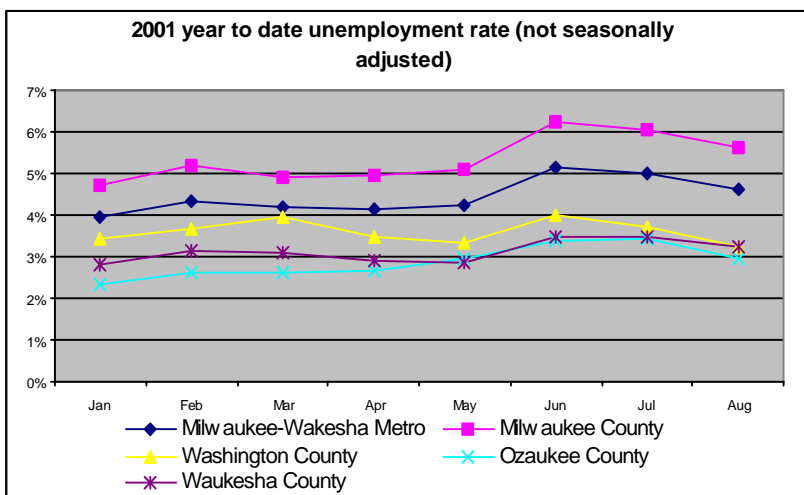
Industry employment shows a loss of 470 net jobs in the aggregate WDA. Waukesha County composed about 64 percent of the monthly WOW WDA job loss, Washington and Ozaukee Counties composed 19 percent and 17 percent, respectively. Waukesha County led the area with a 300 job deficit since July. Manufacturing comprised the largest portion of this net loss, losing 400 jobs over the month in the entire WOW WDA. Construction also lost slightly over the month.

On a good note, retail and wholesale trade edged upwards in the WOW counties, adding 130 jobs combined. FIRE sectors also increased over the month, up about 40 jobs over the month which is contrary to the state's pattern of losses since July.

Over the year industry figures show a net loss of WOW WDA jobs.

The goods producing sectors, construction and manufacturing, show contrasting pictures with slight growth in construction and a 4.8 percent (-3,670) reduction in the number of manufacturing jobs. Waukesha County wholesale trade slipped downwards 2.5 percent or 500 fewer jobs in August 2001. Retail trade reported lower in all three WOW counties. Services showed the greatest numerical and percentage growth with 1,210 more jobs over the year in the WOW counties which translates to 1.5 percent growth. The FIRE sectors and construction also registered a little over one percent in growth over

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the year.

The horrific events of September 11, 2001 have caused a great amount of concern regarding the national economy and rightfully so. It is still too early to tell what the immediate future brings in the national and local perspectives. It would be very presumptuous to say that all is lost and that recession is imminent. The news of airline layoffs and closures will surely send

ripples into hospitality services and retail industries as well as other transportation sectors that are “symbiotic” to airline travel, inducing dismal forecasts that had already been less than stellar in the short-term outlook. The industrial impact locally may not be evident for some time as many employers evaluate their industries’ and companies’ stance. Consumer spending and their confidence will be key as well.

August 2001	Wisconsin	Milwaukee- Waukesha MSA	Milwaukee County/WD A	Washington County	Ozaukee County	Waukesha County	W-O-W WDA
Civilian Labor Force*	3,079,134	824,962	488,055	69,137	49,512	218,258	336,907
Persons Employed	2,957,882	786,725	460,541	66,907	48,059	211,218	326,184
Persons Unemployed	121,252	38,237	27,514	2,230	1,453	7,040	10,723
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	4.6%	5.6%	3.2%	2.9%	3.2%	3.2%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries**	2,850,766	864,146	554,566	47,156	39,240	223,184	309,580
Goods Producing Jobs	736,229	201,636	101,729	18,092	13,644	68,171	99,907
Service Producing Jobs	2,114,537	662,510	452,838	29,064	25,595	155,013	209,672
Construction & Mining	140,278	36,633	15,100	2,847	1,677	17,009	21,533
All Manufacturing	595,951	165,003	86,629	15,245	11,967	51,161	78,374
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	134,437	38,002	27,799	1,720	806	7,677	10,203
Wholesale Trade	139,844	49,678	25,566	2,453	1,632	20,026	24,112
Retail Trade	506,839	134,089	83,247	8,345	7,065	35,431	50,842
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	153,753	59,704	43,356	2,031	2,001	12,317	16,348
Services	799,610	292,766	210,762	9,316	10,343	62,345	82,004
All Government	380,054	88,271	62,108	5,197	3,748	17,217	26,163
Change from July 2001							
Civilian Labor Force*	-48,380	-13,400	-8,110	-1,210	-860	-3,230	-5,300
Persons Employed	-31,630	-9,690	-5,670	-820	-590	-2,600	-4,020
Persons Unemployed	-16,750	-3,710	-2,430	-380	-270	-630	-1,280
Unemployment Rate	-0.5%	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.5%	-0.5%	-0.2%	-0.3%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries**	-3,150	-1,170	-700	-90	-70	-300	-470
Goods Producing Jobs	-2,390	-900	-470	-80	-60	-290	-430
Service Producing Jobs	-770	-270	-240	-10	-10	-10	-30
Construction & Mining	-630	-50	-20	0	0	-20	-30
All Manufacturing	-1,760	-850	-450	-80	-60	-260	-400
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	630	10	10	0	0	0	0
Wholesale Trade	460	180	90	10	10	70	80
Retail Trade	2,630	130	80	10	10	30	50
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	-390	130	100	0	0	30	40
Services	430	-390	-280	-10	-10	-80	-110
All Government	-4,520	-330	-230	-20	-10	-60	-100
Change from August 2000							
Civilian Labor Force*	97,620	10,830	6,130	870	710	3,120	4,700
Persons Employed	76,070	5,140	3,010	440	310	1,380	2,130
Persons Unemployed	21,550	5,690	3,120	430	400	1,740	2,570
Unemployment Rate	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries**	-6,530	-6,300	-2,390	-770	-540	-2,610	-3,910
Goods Producing Jobs	-30,210	-8,510	-4,380	-770	-600	-2,760	-4,130
Service Producing Jobs	23,680	2,210	1,990	10	60	150	220
Construction & Mining	-910	-770	-320	-60	-40	-360	-450
All Manufacturing	-29,300	-7,740	-4,060	-710	-560	-2,400	-3,670
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	1,590	-280	-200	-10	-10	-60	-70
Wholesale Trade	-1,520	-1,230	-630	-60	-40	-500	-600
Retail Trade	2,140	-1,550	-960	-100	-80	-410	-590
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	3,620	670	480	20	20	140	180

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